

**Welcome!** to our quarterly Newsletter from the Diocese of Sheffield's Healing & Wholeness Group, updating you on healing & wholeness news around the Diocese.

## Welcome to 2026 Friends!

*I thought I would start our Healing and Wholeness journey this year by reflecting on this thought provoking poem written by Penny Boxall to go with a woodcut by Naoko Matsubara in their book: In Praise of Hands*  
© Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

The nurse who handled  
your broken heart  
not only made you better:  
he came away with strong fibres  
woven in him that could only  
have come from you.



*Healing Hands B*  
2000

I am about to retire as a GP partner, although will continue as a Dermatology Specialist Doctor part-time, for the foreseeable future. Part of the reason for doing this is to ensure that I have a protected Sabbath day of rest and more space for my Self-supporting and Healing and Wholeness Ministry and this excites me, but I am also a bit daunted as this will be a big change for me. Of course I will still be a doctor as well as a priest, but it has made me reflect on what tools I might take with me into this next stage of my ministry.

In Barbara Brown Taylor's book *The Healing Word*, she imagines what it must have been like for Luke the Physician to leave his medical practice for the preaching life. She figured that he didn't stop carrying his black bag, he simply repacked it, taking out the scissors, scalpel and tincture of iodine to make room for the medicine of the Gospel. Which got me thinking about what tools I kept in my black bag and what repacking of the black bag for ministry looks like for me..

What are our most important tools for healing, I wonder?

These are some of the contents of my Doctor's 'healing' bag:

Listening; being with; reaching out with a healing touch; blessing with words:

Words like: 'Do not fear.' 'God is with you.' 'God carries you.' 'Stand up and walk.'

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' 'You are God's beloved, with you he is pleased!'

What's in your black bag I wonder?

*Louise*

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## Looking Forward to Healing and Wholeness in 2026..

**For your Diaries:** *Booking links to follow shortly on the website.*

### **By popular demand: a new Exploration of Healing Day for 2026:**

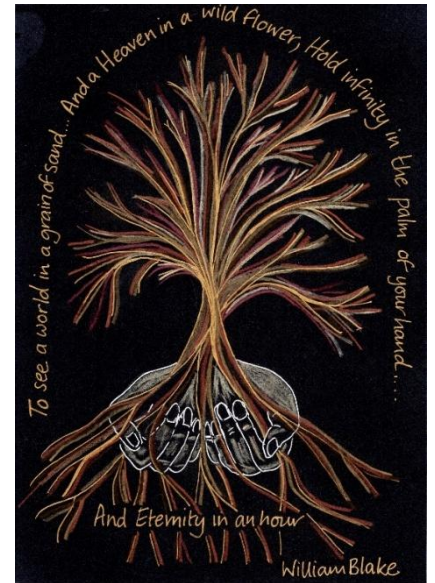
*based on the Centurion's story, which speaks of radical trust and inclusion: '...only speak the word, and my servant will be healed..'*

**Saturday 20th June 2026 9–2pm**

**At the Vine, St Barts, Primrose Hill, Langsett,  
Sheffield S6 2UW**

A day for all those interested in Healing Ministry to network with others and explore what healing looks like, for ourselves, those we minister to and others..

*An experiential day building on the feedback from last year to explore Wellbeing, Healing and Wholeness in more depth. The day will be both inspirational and practical and will provide an opportunity for us to explore the Tensions of Healing and the diversity of what Healing can look like.*



To include:

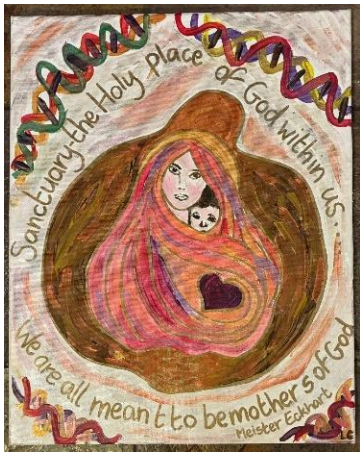
- *Opening Worship from Adrian Scott, Spiritual Director & Poet*
- *'What does Healing look like? What do you want me to do for you?': An exploration of different types of & the tensions of Healing, with our keynote speaker Jo Hird, Head of Spiritual Care at St Luke's Hospice*
- *A choice of workshops on Healing presence, Healing in nature, and Healthy Healing prayer Ministry: the H&W Team*
- *A Facilitated Discussion on new / different / additional approaches to healing ministries & the dilemmas and hard questions about healing: Rev Genevieve Langdon, subDean, St Paulinus Community, Sheffield Cathedral*
- *Prayer resources from church house*
- *A Healing and Anointing service to finish to inspire & resource you.*

Come along and get involved!

Meet the Healing and Wholeness team, ask questions and find out how we can resource you and do more healing ministry together!

**All welcome!** Refreshments provided Please bring your own lunch

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**Creating Churches of Healing and Sanctuary:**  
How can we make our churches Places of learning,  
where we intentionally build cultures of welcome  
and share that learning with others?  
led by Rev Inderjit Bhogal, OBE,  
founder member of the City of Sanctuary Movement  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026 9.30-2pm  
At Rotherham Minster, Sheffield S60 1PD  
*the morning will finish with a Healing Eucharist*

For more information contact [healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org)

### **Watch this space:**

- *The Healing and Wholeness Team are exploring holding a **joint event with the Disability team** based on hearing the stories of those with various disabilities: We will seek to answer the question: What does Healing look like in the context of Disability? if you would like to be involved or help us shape this please contact: [healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org)*

### **Finally please put St Luke's Day: 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2026 in your diary..**

This year 18th Oct, St Luke's Day, falls on a Sunday!

Why not start thinking about having a Healing Service in your church on that day? Particularly the 3 churches dedicated to St Luke: Lodge Moor, New Rossington, & Worsbrough Common.

The Healing and Wholeness Team will get some resources together for you all to use, which we will put in our next Newsletter

+Pete suggests that we might be able to hold a 'Healing Ministry' Sunday with a central flagship Healing service somewhere central like the cathedral. More later..

### **News from around the Diocese:**

On 11<sup>th</sup> January St Mark's Broomhill held a event called:


**'Thinking Faith: Healing and Wholeness - Have faith communities anything to offer?'**

Led by a team of 2 GPs and a Healthcare Chaplain: Dr Charlotte Bryson, Dr Alice Newitt & Rev'd Mark Newitt.

*The event was well received and got people thinking and talking about what we mean by health, healing and wholeness  
Here is a response from one member of the audience to inspire you..*

## THINKING FAITH

11th January 7pm



**Healing and wholeness:  
Have faith communities anything to offer?**  
with Dr Charlotte Bryson, Dr Alice Newitt & Rev'd Dr Mark Newitt

What is health – the absence of disease or something more? Are health and wholeness the same thing? Is the NHS a 'health' service or an 'illness' service? What factors contribute to the healing process or to sustaining health and wellbeing? Can a person with an impairment or terminal condition be whole? Is there a spiritual dimension to health and wholeness? Have faith communities a contribution to make? These are some of the questions that will be explored by three healthcare specialists during an evening of input and discussion.

## An audience member response - Thinking Faith: Healing and Wholeness

What we do when illness and faith collide is a personal question for me, as one of many people living with a long-term, life-limiting health condition. Questions of if/how prayers for healing 'work' are questions that are deceptively simple and their speculation is rarely cost-free for those of us living in unwell bodies. But in this evening the speakers explored the broader questions that might be meaningful and which often lie underneath:

How do I make sense of my life and God now I have an illness and am in pain?

What meaning does my life have now – how am I of value when I cannot do or contribute in the ways I could before?

How do I fit in or belong in (faith) community now that I have illness and may never be healthy?

What does healing mean in the context of illness and – inevitable – death? In what sense can I be, or contribute to others being, whole?

For me these are valuable questions, not only for those of us living with long illnesses but all of us who face our mortality. In fact, faith can be a welcome space where the reality that we are 'walking through the valley of the shadow of death' (Psalm 23: 4) can be faced in the knowledge that we are not alone in this experience. I was struck by how counter-cultural this is – in a way that is somewhat shocking. There is an unrealistic but perhaps prevalent idea that 'normal' life is able-bodied and unencumbered, clear-skinned and even glossy white-toothed. We all know that this is not true, but our spaces for acknowledging and speaking to the realities of pain, of illness, of loss, of death, can be felt as shameful or unwelcome spaces.

It is in this context I found the exploration of what is 'health' to be a life-giving re-imagining of 'wholeness': not being free from disease but being held in community in the reality of one's condition; not limitlessly able-bodied, but whole in the way that one's different experiences are integrated and complete. Healing was defined as the forces and processes that work towards this kind of wholeness (a kind of health) that is both individual and collective. Such 'healing' I find already present in our everyday liturgy, and common life, our prayers for those sick and those who have died, our scripture and remembering of the brevity of life in the context of cosmic perspectives that we do not yet understand. I remember regularly attending morning prayer for a time (when I was physically healthy but struggling in other ways) where we would 'pray for all those for whom today is their last'. I found and find this meaningful rather than morbid, real rather than a source of despair. And in these ways we have of welcome and holding to those suffering and those parts of ourselves suffering, there is also our joy and celebration of lives going well. In the words of Paul – we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15).

Perhaps the most renewing insight from the evening for me was that as someone who is not in a completely well body this does not need to be a source of personal

shame as if a fault or failing. Of course, I would agree with this statement intellectually but to feel it was very profound. When we long and pray for others and for ourselves to be made well this can, of course, include physical health, capacity and longevity. But we should hold a bigger perspective so as not to leave any doubt that ill health, limited quality of life and premature death are anything other than real, valid, holy flesh – that we acknowledge the reality of the chaos, and the inevitability of death, and hold a bigger vision of health as wholeness in all that we are and experience, both individually and collectively. In this perspective the prayer to be healed can be a prayer to be loved and accompanied in one's embodied life, in sickness and in health. It is to image it is possible - maybe not always but sometimes - to befriend one's flesh, one's community and one's God, and to live somehow, even in the shadow of death, the fullness of life.

### ***More Healing Services from the Healing and Wholeness team to inspire and refresh you...***

- **Rotherham Minster S60 1PD**

Are you in need of Healing Space and Refreshment?  
Our next Quarterly Healing Service is  
4.30 pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Everyone is welcome! Please come and join us!

Lasting around 45 minutes, this informal service will use music poetry and thought-provoking prayer stations to help us pause, meet and walk with God. There will be an opportunity to have your hands anointed for healing and service, or simply to light a candle and be still for a while.



- **Healing service at All Saints Aston S26 2AX**

A new Healing Service I found out about while out and about in the Diocese :  
Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing @ All Saints, Aston-cum-Aughton  
9.30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed in the month. I've added it to the H&W webpage

Let us know about your healing services so we can advertise them for you.  
If you would like help setting one up, or us to provide a 'Pop-up' Healing  
Service at your church please contact: [healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org)

***News and Resources for your ministry and those Healing Services we know about round the Diocese are all on our Healing and Wholeness page of the diocesan Website: [Healing & Wholeness](#)***

***If you haven't looked already*** check out our direct link (below) to our **Healing and Wholeness Prayer Station Resources at Church House**. Please let Julia Fall know if you have any more ideas for resources you would find helpful.



***Julia has just added a new Sand contemplative Prayer station***  
***A Full size Labyrinth is now available to borrow***  
[Healing & Wholeness Prayer Station Resources](#)

## **Get in touch!**

We are always keen to hear what is going on in your Healing and Wholeness Ministry around the Diocese, so if you have held a healing service or event, have set up a wellbeing space or resource or are planning to do so, please get in touch with us so we can share ideas and let people know. We can help with resources and communications. Please join our Facebook group to share ideas and resources: [Healing & Wholeness in the Diocese of Sheffield | Facebook](#), and we have a dedicated webpage too, [Healing & Wholeness](#)

You can contact me, Rev Dr Louise Castle:  
[healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:healing.ministry@sheffield.anglican.org)

God Bless you all,  
Louise

Rev Dr Louise Castle

Bishop's Advisor in Healing and Wholeness  
Diocese of Sheffield



**[Finally.. Dementia News from around the Diocese](#)**

This year, the nationally recognised Dementia Action week runs from 18-24 May, during which we are invited to undertake actions to increase the awareness of dementia in our communities. For those who want to explore dementia in more depth, Grace Stead will run the three-part Dementia Stars course in June. This will explore how people with dementia experience the world and how we can best support them.

**Ranmoor Parish Centre S10 3GX**

**Fridays 12, 19 and 26 June at 2 pm**

***see the full article below containing booking links***

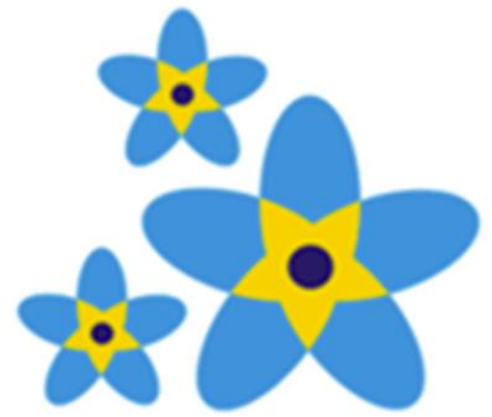
*That's All for this Quarter..*

*Thanks for being part of the Sheffield Diocese Healing and Wholeness Community!*

*The Healing and Wholeness Team*

# Dementia Matters

This year the nationally recognised **Dementia Action Week** runs from **18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May** during which we are invited to undertake actions to increase our awareness of dementia. During this week the forget me not symbol reminds us that there is more to dementia than troublesome symptoms; we must not forget the person often concealed beneath the symptoms and her spirituality.



During Dementia Action Week, as Christians, taking time to read and reflect on poems and prayers written by the “experts” (ie those on the dementia pathway and their carers) whose experiences can deepen our understanding of dementia can help us respond to those affected with compassion and thoughtful care.

In 2024 St John’s Church, Ranmoor, created a reflective space in the side chapel using such poems and prayers. They were displayed on cards enabling them to be picked up and read reflectively while sitting in the chapel. The setting encouraged prayer and meditation rather than the sharing of information. Visitors to the chapel described the experience as deeply meaningful, and many took copies of the prayers and poems home.



In 2025 all 3 churches in our mission area created their own dementia reflection spaces. Perhaps this Dementia Action Week is the time for other diocesan churches to consider exploring the spiritual aspects of dementia in this way. If you would like to discuss setting up a similar reflection space please feel free to contact me [weekswendy@hotmail.com](mailto:weekswendy@hotmail.com).

On Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Ranmoor Parish Centre, 5 Ranmoor Park Road S10 3GX. Grace Stead from ‘Enrichment for the Elderly’ will lead an introductory 2 hour training session on **‘Supporting People with Dementia through Pastoral Care’**. This is primarily for church members involved in dementia care as well as anyone supporting someone on the dementia pathway.

For those wanting to understand more about dementia Grace will be running one of her highly praised **Dementia Stars** courses on Fridays June 12, 19 and 26 at 2-4pm.at the Parish Centre.



You can book places on either course via the Enrichment for the Elderly website using the following link <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield/our-services/das-training/> or contact Claire Webber, Ranmoor Parish Administrator, 0114 2301199; email [administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk) who will make the booking for you.

**Please Note**

- 1) Both of these courses are free to attend.**
- 2) Both courses are designed for people in caring roles and are not intended for those on the dementia pathway.**

Wendy Weeks

Convenor, Dementia Core Group, St Mary's Church, Walkley, St Mark's Church, Broomhill and St John's Church, Ranmoor.

